

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 21, 2006, has been received and carefully noted. The amendments made herein and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1, 6, 21, 22, and 33 have been amended. Claims 34-46 were previously canceled. Claims 1-33 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

Claims 1-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Roper (U.S. Patent No. 6,270,351). To the extent that this rejection remains applicable to the claims, as amended, it is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention as now set forth in amended claim 1 is directed to a method for providing interactive assistance with populating an automated document that includes at least one field, the method including performing a compliance check of each response for the at least one field.

The invention, as claimed in amended claim 1, assists users with filling out, in full legal compliance, recurring sets of paperwork associated with their job that have embedded legal requirements. The invention builds artificial intelligence into the online paperwork in order to automatically support school staff in applying correctly and consistently all of the embedded procedural requirements, which alleviates training staff to remember all of the embedded requirements and to apply them correctly.

The Office Action asserts that Roper teaches performing a compliance check of each response for the at least one field in column 11, lines 53-67. However, the

Applicants submit that the cited section of Roper merely states that a check is placed in an indicator 1904, the indicator being a box in Figure 19a. Thus, this section of Roper merely states that a checkmark is placed in the box 1904. This is not performing a compliance check, as recited in amended claim 1.

Column 10, lines 24-26 states that before being printed, the school contact and telephone number information of a Notice of Reassessment form are verified by the user of the system. Roper only teaches that the school contact and telephone number are verified. In contrast, claim 1 recites performing a compliance check of each response for the at least one field.

Therefore, the Applicants submit that Roper does not disclose or suggest a method for providing interactive assistance with populating an automated document that includes at least one field, the method including at least performing a compliance check of each response for the at least one field.

For at least this reason, Applicants submit that claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the cited prior art. For similar reasons, Applicants submit that claims 21, 22, and 33 are likewise allowable.

As claims 1 and 22 are allowable, Applicants submit that claims 2-20 and 23-32, which depend from allowable claims 1 and 22, are also allowable over the cited art for at least the above noted reason and for the additional features they provide.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 026063-00014.

Respectfully submitted,

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